

## **In the Abstract**

The amended Abstract is as follows, and appears in a *marked* version in Appendix B.

### **Abstract of the Invention**

The invention comprises an animal having a presurgical normal gastrointestinal tract, which gastrointestinal tract has been surgically modified such that postsurgically there is a reduction of the volume of the stomach that food enters and in which food is lodged while undergoing digestion in the stomach, a reduction in the digestive area of the gastrointestinal tract, a reduction in the co-mingling of food with gastric, biliary and pancreatic juices, a reduction in the presurgical gastric output of the peptide ghrelin, a reduction in the threshold for satiety, a permanent reduction in presurgical weight, and an induction of a condition of malabsorption. The surgically-altered animal may be adapted for use as an animal model in a method wherein the biological mechanisms underlying obesity and its reduction may be investigated; and, in which the molecular biological effects of surgical intervention for obesity may be investigated; and, in which the efficacy of noninvasive alternatives to surgical intervention for obesity may be investigated.

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